



# News Release

Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture  
Denver Federal Center Bldg 67, Room 630 · Denver, CO 80225

January 12, 2011

## ANNUAL CROP SUMMARY - 2010 CROPS COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado experienced a favorable growing season in 2010. Acreage and production of 2010 crops are compared with revisions of 2009 crops. The 2010 **corn for grain** crop was estimated at 182.71 million bushels, 21 percent above last year's output of 151.47 million bushels. The average yield of 151.0 bushels per acre was 2.0 bushels per acre below the yield achieved last year. Area harvested for grain in 2010, at 1.21 million acres, was 220,000 acres larger than last year. Acreage cut for **corn silage** was set at 100,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from last year. **Sorghum** for grain production was estimated at 7.52 million bushels, up 11 percent from the previous year. Average yield was estimated at 47.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels per acre from last year. Producers harvested 160,000 acres for grain, up 10,000 acres from last year's area harvested. **Proso millet** production in the state was estimated at 7.1 million bushels, up from 5.3 million bushels produced last year. Farmers harvested 215,000 acres of proso, up 65,000 from the previous year. Yields decreased 2 bushels from last year to 33.0 bushels per acre. **Dry edible bean** production was set at 1.25 million hundredweight, 48 percent above the 2009 crop of 848,000 hundredweight. Average yield was estimated at 1,900 pounds per acre, 300 pounds above last year. Harvested area, at 66,000 acres, was 13,000 more than last year.

The final 2010 **all wheat** production for Colorado, at 108.2 million bushels, was nearly 8 percent higher than the production attained the previous year and the largest wheat crop in Colorado since 1985. **Winter wheat** production was estimated at 105.8 million bushels, 8 percent higher than last year's crop of 98.0 million bushels. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 2.35 million acres, down from 2.45 million acres harvested last year. The average yield per acre for this year's crop was 45.0 bushels, 5.0 bushels above last year and a new record high for Colorado, overtaking the 43.0 bushels per acre set in 1999. The area seeded last fall for the 2010 crop was estimated at 2.45 million acres. Producers seeded 2.5 million acres in fall 2010 for the 2011 crop. This year's **spring wheat** crop was estimated at 2.48 million bushels, down 5 percent from last year's crop. The average yield of 92.0 bushels per acre was 2.0 bushels above last year and a new record high as well from 90 bushels per acre first set in 2002. The area harvested for grain was set at 27,000 acres this year, down from 29,000 harvested in 2009. Producers seeded 28,000 acres to spring wheat compared with 30,000 last year. Colorado's **barley** production in 2010 was estimated at 8.38 million bushels, down 19 percent from a year ago. The average yield per acre, at 133.0 bushels, was down 2.0 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 63,000 acres, down from 77,000 acres in 2009. Production of **oats** in 2010 totaled 585,000 bushels, equal to the production attained last year. Average yield was placed at 65.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last year's results along with the area harvested for grain at 9,000 acres. Acres seeded to oats totaled 55,000 in 2010, down 5,000 acres from 2009. Colorado's 2010 **alfalfa hay** production was placed at 2.87 million tons from 820,000 acres harvested. The average yield for the 2010 crop was 3.5 tons per acre, four-tenths of a ton below last year. **All other hay** production totaled 1.17 million tons from 780,000 acres harvested. The average yield of 1.5 tons per acre was a half-ton below the yield attained last year. **Hay stocks** on farms and ranches in Colorado totaled 2.0 million tons on December 1, 2010, down 20 percent from 2.5 million tons on hand the previous year.

**Fall potato** growers in the San Luis Valley produced 21.53 million hundredweight of potatoes this year, down 2 percent from last year's crop. Average yield was set at 390 hundredweight per acre, down 10 hundredweight per acre from last year's yield. The harvested area of 55,200 acres this year was equal to last year's harvested area. The **summer potato** yield, also at 390 hundredweight per acre, averaged 20 hundredweight below last year's average yield. Growers harvested 4,000 acres, up 100 acres from last year's harvested area. Production is set at 1,560,000 hundredweight, down from last year's production of 1,599,000 hundredweight. The state's **sugarbeet** crop of 823,000 tons for 2010 was down 15 percent from the 963,000 tons produced in 2009. Producers harvested 27,900 acres in 2010, down from 35,000 acres in 2009. Average yield was estimated at a record high 29.5 tons per acre. **Sunflower** production was set at 168.0 million pounds from 127,000 acres harvested. Yield was estimated at 1,322 pounds per acre, down from the 1,403 pounds attained last year. Production of oil varieties increased 38 percent from the previous year to 124.2 million pounds and production of non-oil varieties increased 35 percent to 43.8 million pounds.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

The United States **corn** for grain production is estimated at 12.4 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast and 5 percent below the record high production of 13.1 billion bushels set in 2009. U.S. grain yield for 2010 is estimated at 152.8 bushels per acre. This is down 1.5 bushels from the November forecast and 11.9 bushels below the record high yield of 164.7 bushels per acre set in 2009. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 81.4 million acres, up slightly from the November forecast and up 2 percent from 2009. **Corn silage** production is estimated at 107 million tons in 2010, down 1 percent from 2009. The U.S. silage yield is estimated at a record high 19.3 tons per acre, tying the previous record set in 2009. Acreage harvested for silage is estimated at 5.57 million acres, down 1 percent from a year ago. **Sorghum** grain production in 2010 is estimated at 345 million bushels, up 2 percent from the November 1 forecast but 10 percent below 2009. Planted area is estimated at 5.40 million acres, down 19 percent from last year. Area harvested for grain, at 4.81 million acres, is down 13 percent from 2009. Average grain yield, at 71.8 bushels per acre, is down 0.7 bushel from the previous forecast but up 2.4 bushels from last year. Production of **proso millet** in 2010 totaled 11.5 million bushels, up 30 percent from 2009. Planted area, at 390,000 acres, is up 11 percent, while harvested area, at

363,000 acres, is up 37 percent from last year. The average yield for 2010 is estimated at 31.8 bushels per acre, down 1.7 bushels from last year. **Dry Edible Bean** production is estimated at 31.8 million cwt for 2010, up 25 percent from 2009. Planted area is estimated at 1.91 million acres, up 24 percent from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 1.84 million acres, 26 percent above the previous year. The average United States yield is estimated at 1,726 pounds per acre, a decrease of 11 pounds from 2009. Production is expected to be higher in 14 of the 18 States in the dry bean program in 2010. The top five producing States all showed increased production from last season. Production in North Dakota, the largest producing State, was up 35 percent from a year ago, while Michigan increased 21 percent from 2009. Minnesota and Nebraska's production increased 22 percent and 30 percent, respectively. Idaho's production is up 29 percent from last season. **Soybean** production in 2010 totaled 3.33 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the November 1 forecast and down 1 percent from 2009. U.S. production is the second largest on record. The average yield per acre is estimated at 43.5 bushels, 0.4 bushel below the November 1 forecast and 0.5 bushel below last year's record high yield. Harvested area is up slightly from 2009 to a record high 76.6 million acres.

The 2010 **oats** production is estimated at 81.2 million bushels, down 13 percent from last year and is a record low production. Yield is estimated at 64.3 bushels per acre, down 3.2 bushels from the previous year. Area planted to oats is estimated at a record low 3.14 million acres, down 8 percent from 2009. The largest decline occurred in North Dakota, where planted area decreased 70,000 acres from last year and is a record low for that State. In total, record lows for planted acres were set in 12 States. Harvested area is estimated at a record low 1.26 million acres, 8 percent below last year. The largest decline occurred in North Dakota, where area harvested for grain decreased 60,000 acres from last year and is also a record low for that State. Record lows for harvested area occurred in 10 States. The 2010 **winter wheat** production totaled 1.49 billion bushels, 3 percent below last year. The U.S. yield is 46.8 bushels per acre, up 2.6 bushels from the previous year and the fourth highest on record. Area harvested for grain is estimated at 31.7 million acres, down 8 percent from the previous year. Planted acres were down from 2009 in many of the major Hard Red Winter growing States. While harvested acres were down from last year in most of the major growing States, ideal weather conditions in Oklahoma and Texas resulted in an increase of 1.70 million harvested acres from 2009 in those two States. Record high yields occurred in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and North Dakota. Overall, Hard Red Winter production totaled 1.02 billion bushels, up 11 percent from 2009. Planted and harvested acres decreased from a year ago across all of the Soft Red Winter growing area due to the late row crop harvest and wet weather during seeding. Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, and Ohio set record lows for planted acres. **Other Spring Wheat** production for 2010 is estimated at 616 million bushels, up 5 percent from 2009 and the third highest total on record. Harvested area is 13.4 million acres, up 3 percent from last year. The United States yield is a record high 46.1 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel higher than last year which was the previous record. Yields are above last year's level in all States except North Dakota and South Dakota. Average yield in North Dakota, the largest spring wheat-producing State, was 44.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels lower than 2009 but still the second highest on record. Record high yields were set in Colorado, Montana, and Oregon.

**Barley** production is estimated at 180 million bushels, down 21 percent from 2009. Average yield per acre, at 73.1 bushels, is up 0.1 bushel from last year and is the highest yield on record since estimates began in 1866. Producers seeded 2.87 million acres in 2010, down 19 percent from last year. This is the lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area, at 2.47 million acres, is down 21 percent from 2009, and the lowest level since 1882. Compared with last year, barley seedings decreased in Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota, the three largest barley-producing States. Producers in North Dakota seeded 720,000 acres and harvested 670,000 acres, down 40 and 41 percent, respectively, from the previous year. Seeded area in North Dakota establishes a record low for the State, while harvested area is the lowest since 1936. In addition, Michigan, Minnesota, and South Dakota producers set new record lows for seeded acreage. A record low for harvested area was set in South Dakota and tied in Michigan. Conversely, record high yields were set in Arizona, Montana, and Utah.

Production of dry **hay** for 2010 is estimated at 146 million tons, down 4 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 1 percent from the 2009 total. Area harvested is at 59.9 million acres, up slightly from both the October 1 forecast and from last year. The average yield, at 2.43 tons per acre, is down 0.12 ton from October and down 0.04 ton from the previous year. **Alfalfa and Alfalfa** production in 2010 is estimated at 67.9 million tons, down 5 percent from the October 1 forecast and down 4 percent from 2009. Harvested area, at 20.0 million acres, is 4 percent below the October 1 forecast and 6 percent below the previous year. The average yield is 3.40 tons per acre, 0.04 ton below the October 1 forecast but 0.05 ton above 2009. **All Other Hay** production in 2010 totaled 77.7 million tons, down 4 percent from the October 1 forecast but up 1 percent from 2009. Area for harvest, at 39.9 million acres, is up 3 percent from October and up 4 percent from last year. The average yield is estimated at 1.95 tons per acre, down 0.13 ton from October and down 0.04 ton from last year.

**Fall Potato** production for 2010 is estimated at 361 million hundredweight, virtually unchanged from the December 1 forecast but down 8 percent from last year. Area harvested, at 881,300 acres, is down slightly from the December 1 forecast and 4 percent lower than last year. The average yield is estimated at 409 hundredweight per acre, unchanged from the December 1 forecast but 20 hundredweight below last year's record high yield. **Summer Potato** production for 2010 is 11.5 million hundredweight, but down 2 percent from the September forecast and down 19 percent from 2009. Harvested area, at 37,100 acres, is down 11 percent from last year. The average yield of 311 hundredweight per acre is 32 hundredweight below 2009. Production declined from the previous year in eight of the nine producing States. Beginning in 2010, summer potatoes in California were combined with spring potatoes. **Sugarbeets** production for 2010 is estimated at 31.9 million tons, up fractionally from the November 1 forecast and 7 percent above last year. Growers in the 10 major sugarbeet-producing States planted 1.17 million acres, a decrease of 1 percent from 2009, while the area harvested totaled 1.16 million acres, up 1 percent from last year. Estimated yield, at 27.6 tons per acre, is 0.1 ton below the November forecast but 1.7 tons above last year and establishes a record high. Record high yields were also set in Colorado, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wyoming. Production increased from last year in three of the four largest sugarbeet-producing States. The 2010 **sunflower** production totaled 2.74 billion pounds, down 10 percent from 2009. The U.S. average yield per acre decreased 94 pounds from last year's record high to 1,460 pounds.